



**PLAN YOUR TRAVEL  
WITH SCOTTSDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY'S WEBSITE**  
<http://library.scottsdaleaz.gov>

Learn how to use the Library's Web Site to:

- Find information about your destination
- Search for Transportation
- Search for Lodging
- Book a reservation

GR0605261

## SCOTTSDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY WEB SITE RESOURCES

**Library Catalog:** Use the Library Catalog to look for

- travel guide-books, videos and DVDs, and music about a country or region;
- historical or archeological information;
- travel fiction;
- hotel, bed & breakfast, and camping directories;
- audio cassettes and CDs to learn the basics of a foreign language

**Information Databases:** Use the Library's subscription databases to

- get full text articles from newspapers, periodicals, and encyclopedias.
- learn about current events and activities, and for travel recommendations and reviews of cruises, airlines, hotels, and restaurants.
- identify good travel fiction, with reviews and plot descriptions.

**Selected Web Sites:** Use the Library's linked lists for:

- Travel - find local and international links for hotels, road conditions, airlines, bus and rail lines, automobiles, and general destination links.
- Geography – find maps, country profiles, physical geography, information and news about countries of the world.
- Newspapers – links to today's edition of newspapers all over Arizona, the United States, and the world. See what's in the news now, before you go!
- Cultures & Folklore – learn about the legends, myths, and general cultural background of the people you'll be visiting.
- Weather – several sites help you plan what clothing to pack.
- Languages –online dictionaries help prepare you to ask important questions, like "How much does it cost?" or "Where is the \_\_\_\_?"

**Timesaver Research Guides:** Our "Country Studies" Timesaver guides you through the process of using the Library catalog, databases, and selected web sites to find material on other countries. Topics covered include travel, statistics, customs, music, food, politics, and more.

## TRAVEL-RELATED WEBSITES

### Preparation

♦ **ATM locator:** (MasterCard/Maestro/Cirrus) Pinpoints ATMs worldwide - [www.mastercard.com/cardholderservices/atm](http://www.mastercard.com/cardholderservices/atm). Visa also has a site at [www.usa.visa.com](http://www.usa.visa.com) to help you find ATMs in the U.S. and abroad.

♦ **Currency conversion:** Oanda. Convert anything to anything, even at rates from months in the past - [www.oanda.com](http://www.oanda.com)

**Insurance:** Insuremytrip.com. Offers side-by-side comparisons of 47 travel insurance plans from 13 companies; [www.insuremytrip.com](http://www.insuremytrip.com)

♦ **Tour operators:** U.S. Tour Operators Association. Find the most trustworthy companies - [www.ustoa.com](http://www.ustoa.com)

**Weather:** Weatherbase.com. Gives worldwide weather information for all the months of the year - [www.weatherbase.com](http://www.weatherbase.com)

### Government

♦ **Customs regulations:** U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Get the rules before shopping abroad - [www.customs.gov/xp/cgov/travel](http://www.customs.gov/xp/cgov/travel)

♦ **Embassies:** Embassy World. Links to every embassy and consulate on earth - [www.embassyworld.com](http://www.embassyworld.com)

♦ **Passports, visas, warnings:** U.S. Department of State. Resources on passports, visas, and dangerous world hot spots - <http://travel.state.gov>

♦ **Tourism offices:** Tourism Offices Worldwide Directory. Links to more than 1,200 bureaus and chambers of commerce - [www.towd.com](http://www.towd.com)

### Health

♦ **Evacuation:** Medjet Assistance. Emergency medical evacuation insurance - [www.medjetassistance.com](http://www.medjetassistance.com)

♦ **Medical advice:** International Association for Medical Assistance to Travelers. Advice about disease risks and healthy travel, with free membership - [www.iamat.org](http://www.iamat.org)

♦ **Prevention:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Required vaccinations and outbreak warnings for all countries - [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)

## **Airfares and Packages**

◆ **Bidding Tips:** BiddingForTravel.com. An independent bulletin board for sharing recent winning bids on Priceline and other travel websites; [www.biddingfortravel.com](http://www.biddingfortravel.com)

◆ **Comparisons:**

- Qixo- Fetches low quotes from scores of airlines; [www.qixo.com](http://www.qixo.com).
- Orbitz - offers a wide selection of low airfares, as well as deals on lodging, car rentals, cruises, vacation packages and other travel; [www.orbitz.com](http://www.orbitz.com).

◆ **Frequent-flier miles:** Inside Flyer. Special offers, mileage bonuses, and insider info on all the major frequent-flier programs; [www.insideflyer.com](http://www.insideflyer.com).

◆ **Webflyer:** Articles on the latest promotions and alliances plus loyalty programs; [www.webflyer.com](http://www.webflyer.com).

◆ **Last-minute packages:**

- **Site 59.** Sells trips from 76 cities, at up to 60 percent off, from 14 days to up to 3 hours before takeoff; [www.site59.com](http://www.site59.com).
- **Quikbook** See this for last-minute air and hotels; [www.quikbook.com](http://www.quikbook.com)
- **Digital City.** Unadvertised & latebreaking airfare deals; choose from nearly 300 U.S. cities, then click "See all travel bargains"; [www.digitalcity.com/travel](http://www.digitalcity.com/travel)

◆ **Round-the-world:** Airtreks. Specialist in Round-the-world, with a website that plans and prices any journey for free; [www.airtreks.com](http://www.airtreks.com)

◆ **Within Europe:** EuropebyAir. A partnership of 21 independent, regional airlines servicing about 150 destinations; [www.europebyair.com](http://www.europebyair.com)

◆ **Worldwide search:** Flights.com. Find low airfares to faraway places on both major and lesser-known airlines; [www.eltextpress.com](http://www.eltextpress.com)

## **Trains**

◆ **European tickets:** Rail Europe. Represents almost every Continental rail system; [www.raileurope.com](http://www.raileurope.com)

◆ **European timetables:** European Railway Server. A platform for national rail companies, useful for gauging costs, timetables, and whether a rail pass would be cheaper <http://mercurio.iet.unipi.it/misc/timetabl.html>

## **Cars and RVs**

- ◆ **European rentals:** Auto Europe. Rents cheap vehicles through a large network of foreign affiliates; [www.autoeurope.com](http://www.autoeurope.com)
- ◆ **Rentals:** DiscountCars.net. For comparison quotes on rental cars; [www.discountcars.net](http://www.discountcars.net)
- ◆ **Road-trip planning:** RoadTrip America. Home to bulletin boards, books, links, maps, and photographs; [www.roadtripamerica.com](http://www.roadtripamerica.com)
- ◆ **RVs:** Recreational Vehicle Industry Association. Background info on rentals, suppliers, and campgrounds; [www.gorving.com](http://www.gorving.com)
- ◆ **National Scenic Byways Online.** Federally funded site features detailed maps, travelers' tales, and detailed information on America's most beautiful drives; [www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org)

## **Lodging**

- ◆ **B&Bs:** BedandBreakfast.com. More than 27,000 B&Bs around the world, exclusive specials; [www.bedandbreakfast.com](http://www.bedandbreakfast.com)
  - ◆ **Chain hotels:** Travelweb. The matrix that the big brands (Hilton, Hyatt, Marriott, etc.) use to promote their own specials; [www.travelweb.com](http://www.travelweb.com)
  - ◆ **Hosting:** GlobalFreeloaders.com. A free database of more than 6,000 people in 100 countries who will lodge strangers for nothing; [www.globalfreeloaders.com](http://www.globalfreeloaders.com)
  - ◆ **House rentals:** Vacation Rentals by Owner. Around 18,000 vacation rentals worldwide; [www.vrbo.com](http://www.vrbo.com)
  - ◆ **House swapping:** HomeLink International. A home-exchange organization, the largest of its kind with more than 15,000 members in 50 countries; [www.homelink.org](http://www.homelink.org)
- Last-minute:** LateRooms. At least 37,000 discounted rooms listed in five languages; [www.laterooms.com](http://www.laterooms.com). Also see LastMinuteTravel.com and 11thHourVacations.com for spur of the moment travel planning. [www.lastminutetravel.com](http://www.lastminutetravel.com) and [www.11thhourvacations.com](http://www.11thhourvacations.com).
- ◆ **Villas:** Unusual Villa Rentals. Rents more than 3,000 private villas and 30 islands scattered around the globe, as well as yacht charters; [www.unusualvillarentals.com](http://www.unusualvillarentals.com)
  - ◆ **World hotels:** Cheapaccommodation.com. Notices of specials at all types of hotels; [www.cheapaccommodation.com](http://www.cheapaccommodation.com)

### **Miscellaneous**


**Air travel:** Transportation Security Administration. Get an up-to-date list of prohibited and permitted items for checked and carry-on luggage, the latest airport security procedures, and claim forms for missing and damaged luggage; [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov)

**Best deals:** Flyertalk. Consumers can post the most recent (within the last 30 minutes) bargains on airfare prices, plus other information; [www.flyertalk.com](http://www.flyertalk.com)

**Literature in travel:** Literary Traveler. Read about literature that deals with travel; [www.literarytraveler.com](http://www.literarytraveler.com)

**Scams:** Better Business Bureau. Find out if a tour company is reputable before you give them thousands of dollars; [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org).

### **Travel Tips and Hints**

- When entering personal information on a website, (such as for the purchase of an airline ticket), make sure it is a secure site. Look for a security statement (SSL) or a picture of a lock .
  - Before completing any transaction or purchase on the Internet, confirm that all of the pertinent information is entered correctly. For example, make sure that the dates and the destination for your airline ticket purchase are when and where you want to go!
  - Don't rely on only one source, whether it's a guidebook, video, or magazine article. There may be variations on the information or omissions of information.
  - Check the U.S. State Department's website (<http://travel.state.gov>) for warnings on travel before planning your trip to other countries.
  - Before purchasing travel insurance, verify that it covers what you want covered. Sometimes terrorism or acts of nature are exempt. As with any legal or business transaction, read your contract!
- ♦ From Arthur Frommer's Budget Travel, December 2003 / January 2004 website article